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From: John Petric
To: Mike Powell
Date: 3/14/03 4:06PM
Subject: Reject the Bells' Monopoly Bid

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MAR 17 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Chairman Michael K. Powell, et.al.
Federal Communications Commission
445 SW 12th Street
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioners,

Elimination of competitive access to wholesale phone networks will do nothing but kill the not yet here, and much anticipated local competition, and leave consumers with the worst of both worlds, an unregulated monopoly.

Please reject the Bell's self serving proposals to eliminate the UNE-Ps, which would pave the way for a bigger, meaner phone monopoly unrestrained by regulatory oversight.

Verizon's director of governmental affairs, Sean M. Looney, told the Maryland House Economic Matters Committee in Annapolis that federal regulators are expected to approve Verizon's plan next week. Verizon, the dominant local carrier in the state, said that if the plan is approved it will also be allowed to provide long-distance service.

A similar plan went into effect in Virginia recently, where for about \$50 a month a residential customers may make unlimited calls to anywhere in the state, the continental U.S. and Canada, Mr. Looney said.

Mr. Looney appeared before the Committee to oppose the two Maryland State bills, House Bill 898, IntraCounty and Adjacent Local Calling, and House Bill 899, Countywide Local Calling, that seek to fix local telephone calling area problems and would require phone companies to provide toll-free service on all calls within the same county or calls between a point in one county and another point within 40 miles of that county's geographical area or whichever is larger, a measure that has long been supported by some area residents.

Please, DO NOT approve the monopolistic Verizon's request for long distance service until it divests itself of the monopoly control in continues to hold in the tri-state region plus. Selling inter-connection agreements is not "competition." Not close, not by even a mile. Prices with Verizon keep going up and nothing is here to keep the restraints in check.

Your expedited cooperation in this matter is sincerely appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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CC: Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein